

RESOURCE QUALITY CRITERIA PLANT

Plant resources include all plants (native and introduced) and the plant communities occurring on rangeland, forestland, native pasture, pastureland, hayland, cropland, and other land uses including recreation land and urban land that are managed in a manner to meet the needs of the soil, water, air, and animal resources as well as the objectives of the land user. Plants of concern are those species that the land user desires to manage, endangered or threatened plants, plant habitat for endangered or threatened animals and species that are required to provide the quality and quantity of food, erosion control, water conservation, aesthetics, habitat, and production needed to meet quality criteria for soil, water, air and animal resources.

The considerations for plants are suitability, condition, management, and protection.

Plant suitability criteria is established for adequacy of adaptation of plants of concern to a site and the suitability of the plants for the intended use.

Plant condition criteria is established for plant health and vigor.

Plant management criteria is established for the adequacy of the plant of concern for establishment, growth and harvest (including grazing), agricultural chemical management (pesticides and nutrients), plant pest management (brush, weeds, insects, and diseases), and plant productivity (kinds, amounts, and distribution).

Plant protection criteria is established for the protection of endangered or threatened plants or habitat for endangered or threatened animals.

Achieving quality criteria for the plant resource will ensure plant species of concern are:

- adapted to the site,
- suitable for the intended use of the site,
- providing the needed production for the intended use of the site,
- properly being managed, and
- providing for the protection of endangered or threatened plants and habitat for endangered or threatened animals.

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RESOURCE	CONSIDERATION/PROBLEM	QUALITY CRITERIA
PLANTS	Suitability – Adaptation Plants are not well adapted to the site.	Criteria is met when the planned measures modify the site to better suite the plants or change the plant community to one that would contribute toward achieving the quality level for that land use.
PLANTS	Suitability – Plants are unsuited for the intended use.	Criteria is met when the planned measures allow for a shift to plants that are suitable for the planned use and contribute toward achieving the quality level for that land use.
PLANTS	Condition – Health and Vigor - Plants do not manufacture sufficient plant food to continue the growth cycle or reproduce.	Criteria is met when the planned measures overcome the constraining condition or problem and will contribute to achieving the quality level for the planned land use.
PLANTS	Management – Establishment, Growth, Harvest – The management plan does not provide the proper techniques and timing for the establishment, growth, and harvest of the plants of concern.	Criteria is met when the planned management includes those measures that provide for the proper technique and timing for the establishment, growth, and harvest to achieve the quality level for the identified land use.
PLANTS	Management – Nutrients - Amounts of plant nutrients are not available to meet plant production requirements.	Criteria is met when the planned measures include nutrient additions to meet plant needs without adverse effects to other resources and Nutrient Management is planned.

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PLANTS	Management – Pests - Pests are not managed to meet the needs of the plants of concern, the decisionmakers objectives, or the conservation objectives.	Criteria is met when pests are managed based on threshold levels to achieve desired production without having adverse effects on other resources and Pest Management, Brush Management, and/or Forest Stand Improvement is planned.
PLANTS	Management – Productivity - Plants do not provide the quantity or quality of forage, cover, or habitat in the amount and timeliness of production needed.	<p>Criteria is land use specific. Criteria is met when: For <u>Cropland</u> – Crops are grown in a planned sequence that meets the conservation, production, and decisionmaker objectives; plants are adapted to the site and their stand density is maintained or improved.</p> <p>For <u>Pastureland</u> and <u>Hayland</u> – Adapted native or introduced species constitute at least 80% of the stand being managed, suitable species attain a high plant vigor, and a sustained level of production is achieved (at least 70% of the planned level of production).</p> <p>For <u>Native Pasture</u> – Herbaceous vegetation is maintained as the dominant plant community through suppression of woody species and sound forage management. Herbaceous plants are properly grazed, forage value rating is medium or better, and plant vigor is high.</p>

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		<p>For <u>Rangeland</u> – Ecological processes are functioning within a normal range of variation and support specific plant and animal communities. Range cover is suitable to protect the resource base and range trend is stable. On seeded rangelands, the desired seeded species constitutes at least 75% of the total vegetative production or at least 75% of the production potential of the site.</p> <p>For <u>Forestland</u> – Trees are well distributed, vigorous, relatively free of disease, insects or other damage, and the density of the stand is within 25% of the forest stand density guide spacing on a stems-per-acre basis for the forest type.</p> <p>For <u>Other Land Uses</u> – Soil cover is maintained using suitable plants or other cover to keep soil erosion within acceptable limits, minimize runoff, and manage infiltration.</p>
PLANTS	<p>Protection – Endangered And Threatened Species - Endangered or threatened plants or habitat for endangered or threatened animals that occupy the site.</p>	<p>Criteria is met when the planned actions do not adversely impact the species or their ecosystem.</p>